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PRODUCTION OF INFECTIOUS HEPADNAVIRUS  
PARTICLES CONTAINING FOAMY RETROVIRUS  
ENVELOPE PROTEINS AND METHODS OF USING THE SAME

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Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention provides a method for producing a  
hepadnavirus virion that is infectious in vitro  
which comprises: (a) introducing into a cell (i)  
a hepadnavirus

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genome expression vector and (ii) a foamy retrovirus  
envelope expression vector which comprises a  
nucleic acid encoding at least a fragment of a  
foamy virus envelope protein, and (b) culturing  
the cell thereby producing hepadnavirus virions  
comprising at least a fragment of a foamy virus  
envelope protein, wherein the hepadnavirus  
virions are infectious in vitro. A method for  
determining susceptibility for an anti-  
hepadnavirus drug, a method for determining  
replication capacity of a hepadnavirus from an  
infected patient, and method for identifying a  
mutation in a hepadnavirus nucleic acid that  
confers resistance to an anti-hepadnavirus drug  
are also provided.

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